

## East Columbia Basin Irrigation District

55 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., PO Box E  
Othello, WA 99344  
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### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title:** Ditchrider  
**Department:** O&M  
**Reports To:** Sectional Watermaster  
**Pay Range:** Group 1A  
**FLSA Status:** Non-Exempt (Hourly)  
**Union:** Yes

#### **SUMMARY:**

Responsible for the timely regulation and delivery of irrigation water to water users when on an assigned route during the water season. Will also perform routine and emergency canal maintenance tasks.

#### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Working under the general supervision of the Watermaster and Assistant Watermaster, the incumbent receives very general oral instruction on work to be accomplished.
- During the irrigation season, the incumbent is assigned responsibility for a specific ride. Following the initial introduction of water in his/her system, the incumbent establishes a daily routine which involves the following:
  - Receiving water orders (written, oral or telephone).
  - Determines the total amount of water to be turned into his/her system and accomplishes the required diversions, in amounts calculated to minimize excess.
  - Follows a daily time schedule, in order to maintain the best possible relations with the water users.
  - Keeps accurate and detailed records of diversions, deliveries, waste and pump discharge, being responsible for accurately determining the effects of variations in flow, weather conditions, and/or outages on totals of such quantities during each 24 hour period.
  - Conducts inspections of the physical state of his/her system and the surrounding area in order to designate possible maintenance needs and to alleviate situations such as accumulation of weeds, silt, burrowing animals and moss growth.
  - Responsible for keeping waterways and weed racks free of weeds. Burn and/or remove debris on racks, walkways and on ditch rides. Control weeds using burning, spraying and sterilization on ditch ride and turn outs.
  - Pull, tie and replace check boards as needed.
  - Replace bent or bad weir blades, staff gauges, walk decks, and weed fences.
  - Replace and/or repair O&M signs as needed.
- After the irrigation season, the incumbent drains his/her system and performs other related work necessary to the discontinuance of the system.
- The incumbent may be required to operate a variety of transportation and earthmoving equipment.
- The incumbent is responsible for taking the annual crop and livestock census for the farm units within his/her system.
- The incumbent maintains continuous personal contact with water users to confer with them on operational needs and policies, to advise them on their own particular water use inventory, to

collect water orders, to gather information and, as the District's closet contact with them, maintains a harmonious and cooperative relationship with them.

- The incumbent must cooperate with other ditchriders insofar as their activities affect his/her ride.
- Duties of the position require that the employee be generally available during the irrigation season, to perform emergency service to assure efficient operation and adequate protection of the irrigation system.
- The incumbent will be required to perform various canal maintenance tasks during the non-irrigation season.
- Other duties as assigned.

### **SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

None

### **JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

*The following job requirements are representative of the education, experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities required to successfully perform the duties of this position. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*

#### **Education/Experience:**

- High School diploma, GED or comparable education required
- General construction, maintenance and water handling experience preferred
- Irrigation background helpful

#### **Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:**

- Basic knowledge of mathematics and construction principles
- Ability to operate hand tools and heavy equipment
- Ability to maintain assigned ditchride
- Knowledge of general safety practices

#### **Other:**

- Must possess a valid Washington State CDL Class "A" driver's license or be able to obtain the license
- Good driving record (MVR must be provided as a condition of hire)
- Must possess a valid Public Pesticide Operators License with a Right-of-Way and Aquatic Irrigation endorsement or be able to obtain the license
- Must pass a criminal background check and pre-employment drug screen as a condition of employment
- Must display a positive attitude and promote team work
- Must display a courteous, respectful and tactful manner with supervisor, co-workers and the public
- Must follow all District safety policies
- Must live within 10 miles of your assigned ditchride.

#### **Physical Demands:**

*The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*

- Must be able to lift and/or pull up to 75 lbs

- Must be able to ascend and descend a ladder or scaffolding
- Must be able to bend, crouch, stoop, kneel, and stand for long periods
- Must be able to grip, grasp, and handle objects such as tools and small parts
- Must be able to reach and pull above your head
- Must be able to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing

**Working Conditions:**

*This position will expose the worker to environmental conditions found both indoors and outdoors.*

- May be exposed to extreme temperatures (heat and cold)
- May be required to work in close quarters and cramped spaces
- Will frequently be exposed to fumes, odors, dust and other pollutants
- Will frequently be exposed to hazards such as rapidly moving water
- May be exposed to heights up to 20'
- May be exposed to hazards such as moving parts, rotating blades, electrical current, etc.
- May be exposed to loud noise levels

**Compensation:**

Wage: Hourly rate

- Step 1- \$26.45 (effective 01.02.25)
- Step 2- \$27.84
- Step 3- \$28.88
- Step 4- \$29.92

**Benefits:**

- Health Insurance
  - Including medical, dental and vision
- Basic life insurance, Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) and long-term disability
  - Supplemental life, AD&D and long-term disability insurance available
- Annual & Sick Leave
- Nine paid holidays, two 3 ½ hour Holidays, one Floating Holiday
- WA Public Employees Retirement System
- Voluntary Washington Deferred Compensation Program

This is a full-time position. Normal hours will be Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00PM, but could vary. Saturdays will be required during the water season and at other times as necessary for the operation of the District. Overtime and emergency callouts may be required.

The Ditchrider position is classified as a bargaining unit position and is covered by the collective bargaining agreement (See Section II.d. of the Personnel Practices and Procedures Manual).

